

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST JOINT POLICING SUB COMMITTEE HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2018, AT 9.15AM.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor J. Sheahan, Cathaoirleach.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Browne, Foley, Scanlan, Collins and Galvin.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director, Service Operations (Mr. G. Daly), Senior Executive Engineer, West Division (Mr. B. Noonan), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Ms. M. Corbett), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan)

Inspector A. Cullen

At the outset, Councillor Sheahan welcomed Inspector Cullen to the Meeting of the Newcastle West Joint Policing Sub Committee.

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 7th March, 2018.

Proposed by: Councillor Foley  
Seconded by: Councillor Galvin  
And Resolved:

“That, the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read and adopted and signed”.

**2. Policing Issues in the District**

Inspector Cullen stated that the incidents of crime have decreased with the exception of shop lifting particularly high end goods from pharmacies in particular and criminal damage. He stated that arrests have taken place with regard to the theft of quad bikes and this has now ceased. He also referred to rural burglaries but these have also decreased due to arrests being made.

Inspector Cullen stated that incidents of criminal damage is on the increase with incidents taking place at night and tying in with antisocial behaviour and public order offences. He stated that on the spot fines can be issued for public order offences and this is proving to be a deterrent. He also stated that a number of behaviour warnings have been issued to young people and this has reduced complaints of anti social behaviour. He said that a Community Guard has been assigned to Abbeyfeale and this is having a positive effect in the town.

He confirmed that the area of roads policing is taking place in conjunction with the Road Safety Authority. A number of operations have been carried out on a weekly basis targeting speeding, use of mobile phones, drink driving and the non-wearing of safety belts. He also confirmed the number of checkpoints carried out in the district increased by 10% and the need to have Garda visibility on the ground is of critical importance.

He referred to the new Community Policing Policy Model where by a Guard would be assigned to each area within the District and stated that the Draft Plan for the District was submitted to the Chief Superintendent for consideration. It is envisaged that the plan will be presented to the Council in the coming months.

He referred to a number of multi-agency operations, which took place during the year with Department of Social Welfare, Road Safety Authority and Customs and Excise. He also stated that a personnel carrier has been allocated to the district and there is a commitment of having five extra gardai assigned to the district but this is dependent on new recruits.

The Cathaoirleach and Members complimented the Inspector on the very comprehensive report of the current situation within the district. The Members referred to a number of other items including cctv cameras and their monitoring, the availability of drugs within the district, illegal dumping and the locations of Go Safe Vans. The possible re-use of vacant Garda houses was also raised but in many cases it is cost prohibitive to upgrade these properties. On a query from the Members regarding the provision of a new Garda Station for Newcastle West, the Inspector confirmed that meetings have taken place with the OPW and the Department of Justice and the matter is ongoing.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_